

# LONE WOLF AND CUB

子と狼

VOLUME 8

CHAINS  
OF DEATH

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



story  
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**GOSEKI KOJIMA**



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CHAINS  
OF  
DEATH

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& GOSEKI KOJIMA

子  
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狼



VOLUME

8

# A NOTE TO READERS

*Lone Wolf and Cub* is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



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*the thirty-ninth*

# Tidings of the Geese



ISARI-HAS-ROB ALONG THE AITO BYWAY,  
ON THE ROAD FROM SAKUJŌ VIA FUNASATA  
AND SHŌTOKU, AND ON TO SAKURA.









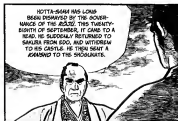














*With trepidation I address these words to my lord...*

*During the ten years of my lord's most honored reign, every year has brought new scandal, while there have been no tidings to gladden the hearts of the people. Reviewing the state of the nation, I find the citizenry impoverished, the very forces and even worked to exhaustion. The source of this malaise is the corruption of the Toshiyori, your most senior officials.*



*The Toshiyori govern for themselves alone, and thus the people are driven to despair. Of my own volition, I offer my lord the thirty thousand koku over which I rule, that you may employ it in the cause of enlightened government.*











IT CAN ONLY BE DIVINE PROVIDENCE  
THAT LED US TO YOU, THE ASSASSIN  
LOAN HOSU AND SON, WHO DWELLS  
IN ANGERLAND TO DEFEAT THE YAMU.  
IT RECALLS THE TALE OF SHINSHO,  
THE TERMS OF THE SHISEI.



THERE ARE THINGS A RETURNER OF THE  
TORUKAWA MAY NOT SAY ALOUD...YET I  
REMEMBER THE WISE MASTER SCOUT OF  
ORIM'S RASCAL NIN DYNASTY, WHO, WHEN  
TAKEN PRISONER BY SHINSHO, TIED A  
MESSAGE TO THE LEG OF  
A WILD GOOSE  
PEOPLE... TO WARN HIS



SO I  
AM TO READ  
YOUR SHINSHO,  
AND STRIKE DOWN  
LORD HOTA'S  
ASSAILANT?

IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
ASK?

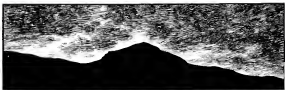


NOT  
ASK...  
BUT?

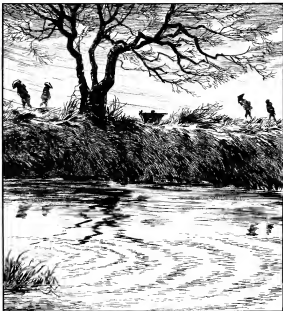
LORD HOTA IS  
THE CORNERSTONE  
OF THE TORUKAWA. IF  
TRUE SAMURAI ONCE AGAIN  
LEAD THE NATION, HE  
WILL BE OUR  
HIGH.

WE CAN'T  
LET THOSE  
FAROFF SOUL  
DESTROY SUCH  
A MAN YET, WE  
SEEK YOUR  
AID.







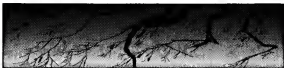




“WHAT’S A  
TWE LINE YOU  
DOIN’ WAY OUT  
HEER, ALL  
ALONE?”

WHERE’D  
YEE HAT  
YER PAT?

















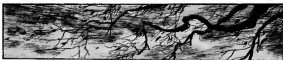






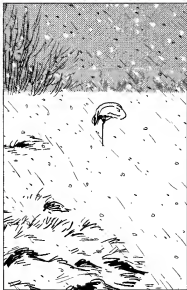








*the fortieth*



# The Frozen Crane







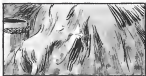










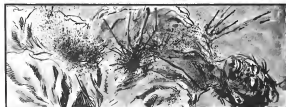




















SIR,  
I ASK A  
FAVOR!



WE SERVE  
LORD KATO  
SADO-NO-KAMI,  
DAI NAHARA  
HAN.

AND  
THAT...



...WAS SOMETIME  
RESEARCHER, WAN-  
DERING KIAMAKI.  
I AM FERRY, WIFE  
OF WATARU YUKIOHSA,  
FOULLY MURDERED  
BY HIS RIVAL.



THIS IS  
SHIMAZU, MY  
HUSBAND'S  
YOUNGER  
BROTHER.



AFTER  
YEARS OF  
STRUGGLE  
AND SUFFERING,  
TOGETHER WE  
HAVE FINALLY  
ACCOMPLISHED OUR  
QUEST!



OUR  
ADVANCE  
SHIMAMOTO.  
PLEASE, SEE  
THAT IT IS IN  
ORDER.

IT'S NONE  
OF MY  
BUSINESS.



I'M SORRY  
TO DELAY YOU,  
SIR, YET *PAUSE*  
MUST HAVE MADE  
YOU PASS BY  
HERE WHEN  
YOU DID.

WILL  
YOU BE OUR  
WITNESS...? *PLEASE!*

THIS IS  
FEARFUL.  
REPORT IT  
TO THE  
DOKKAN.



OF COURSE,  
BUT THEY'LL  
SEND A CORNER  
TO INSPECT THE  
BODY, SIR. THAT'S  
WHEN WE WILL  
NEED YOUR  
TESTIMONY...

...THAT  
WE FACED  
SUZUKI IN A  
DUNE AND KILLED  
HIM IN *PAUSE*  
COMBAT?

....  
....



GOOD  
SIR...YOU MUST  
KNOW THAT EVEN  
IN JAPAN, IF  
YOU KILL YOUR  
OPPONENT  
DISHONOR-  
ABLE...

...THE  
AUTHORITIES  
CAN REFUSE TO  
REESTABLISH OR  
INCREASE YOUR  
HOUSEHOLD.



PLEASE—  
TESTIFY ON  
OUR BEHALF.

I SAW NO  
DUEL...NOT ANY  
UNSEEMLY ACT.  
TO WHAT DO I  
TESTIFY?



NO,  
SIR...YOU  
DID SEE  
HERE...



...FIRE SAYS YOU  
DID. YOU WATCHED  
US CHALLENGE HIM, AND  
KILL HIM IN DISHONOR-  
ABLE COMBAT.

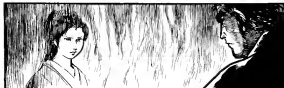
I DID  
NOT.















IF YOU  
ARE HERE  
WITH ME,  
THEY'LL BE  
SUSPICIOUS.

AND  
IF THEY  
ASK YOU TO  
EXPLAIN...



ONE QUESTION...  
DID YOU CHOOSE  
THE PATH OF DEATHS  
AND SLAUGHTER TO  
ADVANCE YOUR  
REVENGE—



—OR DID  
YOU CHOOSE  
IT TO REBUILD  
AND INCREASE YOUR  
HOUSEHOLD, AND WIN  
FAME FOR YOUR  
VIRTUE?



WHY...WHY,  
OF COURSE  
TO...TO FIND HIS  
RELAX, TO PLACE  
HIS SOUL AT  
REST.

THEN REMOVE  
THE EYES AND  
WORDS OF  
STRANGERS,  
AND FEAR NOT  
THE JUDGMENT  
OF THE  
SHAMEN.



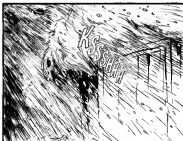
A TRUE  
QUEST FOR  
REVENGE IS NOT  
UNDERTAKEN FOR  
PROFIT OR  
FAME.

ALL THAT  
MATTERS IS TO  
RELIEVE THE CRY  
OF YOUR HEART!!  
ON THE PATH OF  
REVENGE...



...THE  
ANSWER DO  
NOT MATTER!  
ONLY THE  
END!

....  
....









IDENTIFY  
YOURSELVES!



WE'D  
JUST SUSANED  
BY HIRANAKI,  
SEN! WE  
REPORTED...

AL  
THAT'S  
RIGHT—I  
HEARD.



HERE—  
OUR AMARCH  
SAMANALZO.

IF YOU  
PLEASE.



SEN...  
....



AND THIS  
IS SUZUKI  
KUNHECHIRO?



Y-YES,  
SEN.

A BITTER IRONY,  
INDEED, YOU FINALLY  
DISPATCH YOUR SENTRY,  
ONLY FOR YOUR LORD  
TO MEET THIS DREAD-  
FUL END.















*the forty-first*

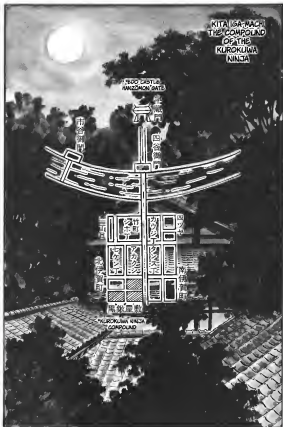
# Chains of Death

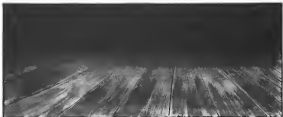


KITA USA-MACHI  
THE COMPOUND  
OF THE  
KUROKUNIA  
NINJA

TEGO CASTLE  
KAKIZOMON GATE

KUROKUNIA NINJA  
COMPOUND











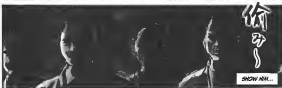
THE SHADOWY TURNER...



...AND BACK  
ON VIRTUE.

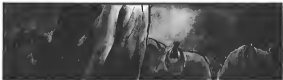


SHOW HIM...



THE WAY?







BY  
PLEDGE AND  
PROMISE, THE  
FARMS CANNOT  
RAISE SWORDS  
AGAINST  
CHANN ITTŌ!

BUT  
NOW THE  
KUROKUNWA  
CLAN HAS  
REASON  
ENOUGH TO  
TAKE HIS  
LIFE!

YOUR  
LEADER GURRY  
AND TWENTY-SIX  
OF YOUR COMRADES  
WAS DIED UNDER HIS  
SWORD. YOU CAN  
NO LONGER  
STAND BY!



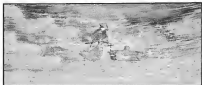
KILL THAT  
MAN AND HIS  
CHILD! NOW! WITH  
THE KUROKUNWA  
SHARITARI!

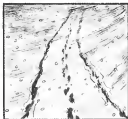
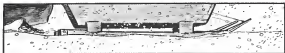








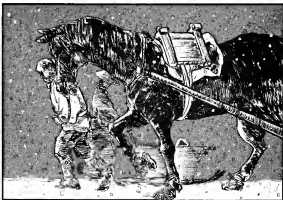




















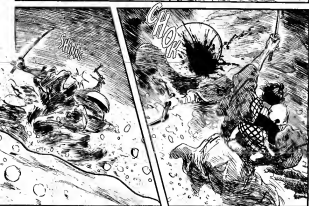






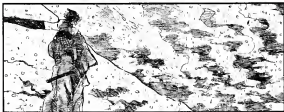


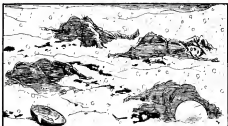


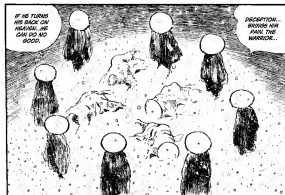
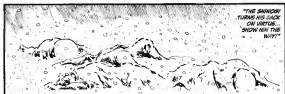
















THE ANONYMOUS  
ONE DEFIED AND  
WAS LONG RECALLED AT  
THE COURT OF THE  
EMPEROR

AND WHAT OF  
FOU WHO FEEL THE  
POWER OF THE  
EMPEROR, YOUR  
DEAR PROTECTED,  
YOU WERE  
PUNISHED FOR THE  
EMPEROR

THE ONE-  
FOURTH NEW  
COURT, THE  
GOVERNMENT!







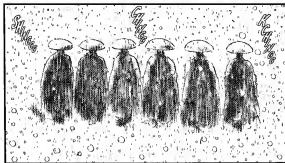
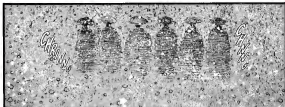




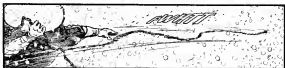




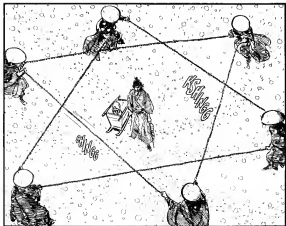




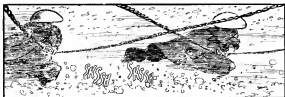


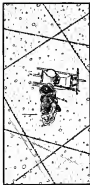
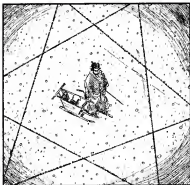


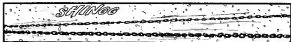


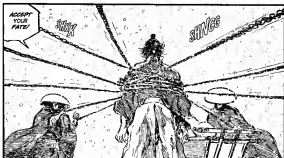
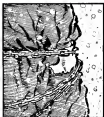












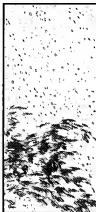
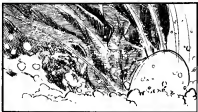


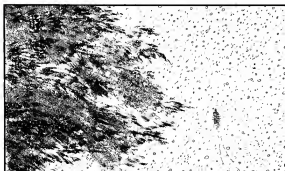
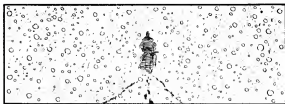












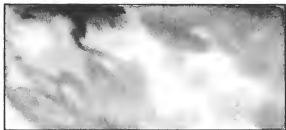


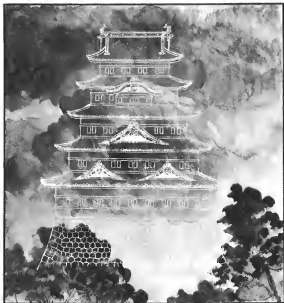
*the forty-second*

# The Infinite Path



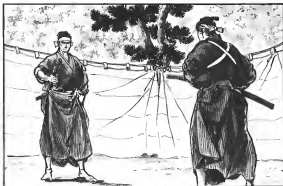






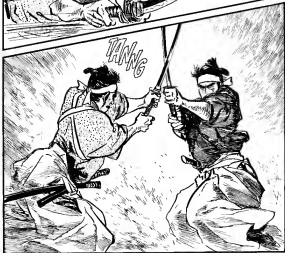




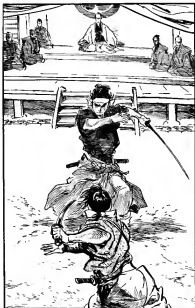


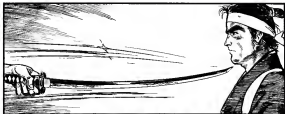


























BUT...BUT, FATHER!  
I'VE DEFEATED ITTO! I'LL  
BE KOSH KASHIMAKUNI!  
WHY THE NORTH-  
LANDS...?!



YOU  
FOOL!



GRAB ITTO!  
SHALL BE KOSH  
KASHIMAKUNI!



WHAT  
...?!



DURING THE  
DUEL, THE TIP  
OF YOUR SWORD  
POINTED AT THE  
*sideboard*

ITTO  
SACRIFICED  
HIMSELF TO  
BLOCK IT!



??



THE SWORDS  
OF THE YAMATO  
ARE THE SWORDS  
OF ASSASSINS!  
THE SWORDS  
ASSASSINS!



FOR IT TO  
EVEN APPEAR  
THAT WE'VE TURNED  
UPON OUR MASTER  
IS BEYOND  
PARDON!

IF YOU'D RUN HIM THROUGH,  
WE COULD SAY YOU LOST YOUR  
HEAD IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE! BUT  
NO!! YOU STOPPED YOUR SWORD  
IN THE FINAL INSTANT TO PLACATE  
YOUR TECHNIQUE! WHO WILL  
BELIEVE US NOW?  
NO ONE!!















AND AS  
HE RISES, THE  
FAVOR WILL  
FALL SHORT IN  
COMPARISON.

WE CAN  
AVOID PLAY-  
INGREY BY  
DISMISSING  
BORDSA'S  
JERRY AS  
GUINNEY'S...



...BUT THE  
STAIN OF THIS  
CALAMITY SHALL  
LINGER FOR  
GENERATIONS!



IT'S EASY  
ENOUGH TO SEE  
GAMBITT, BUT  
THAT WOULDN'T  
ERASE THE  
STAIN!

WE NEED  
A SCHEME TO  
MAKE IT APPEAR  
THAT WE DETRAYS  
THE SHOCK. HIS  
FAMILY NAME  
MUST BE  
REMOVED!

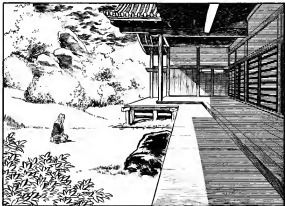


THIS  
SHALL TAKE  
TIME...

SO WE  
WILL BEGIN  
IMMEDIATELY!

















REGARDING  
THE SELECTION  
OF KODAI KAI-  
SHIMIZU...

...I MYSELF  
WISH TO KNOW  
THE REASON FOR  
OGAMI ITTO-KODAI'S  
APPOINTMENT.



I INTENDED TO INFORM YOU  
OF THIS PRIVATELY, AND  
FURTHER, THAT IT WAS THE  
WILL OF OUR LORD THAT  
OGAMI BE PLACED UNDER  
HOUSE ARREST.



JUST  
AS I  
THOUGHT...



YET...  
IF YOU WISH  
TO HEAR  
DIRECTLY,  
I SHALL  
SPEAK.

IT IS AS YOU HAVE  
SAID: DURING THE DUEL,  
THE TIP OF OGAMI'S SWORD  
POINTED AT THE SAKURU. OGAMI  
ITTO SACRIFICED HIMSELF  
TO BLOCK IT.

....  
....

I MUST ADMIT  
TO OUR SHAME THAT  
AT FIRST WE DID NOT  
NOTICE HUNDEI'S SWORD  
THREATENED OUR LORD,  
NOR THAT OGAMI  
ITTO BLOCKED IT.

BEHAVING HUNDEI'S  
VICTORY TO BE  
ABSOLUTE, WE WERE  
PREPARED TO APPOINT  
HIM WITHOUT AWAITING  
A FINAL JUDGMENT.  
HOWEVER...

THANKS TO  
THE SHARP EYES  
OF HATSUOJIMA  
SUO-DOMO...

WE SOUGHT  
OUR LORD'S OPINION,  
AND RECEIVED HIS  
HONORED OBSERVATION  
THAT NEVER, SUO  
SPOKE TRUTH.



YET YOUR  
CONDUCT IS  
ADMIRABLE,  
YAMU-DOMO, AND  
HUNDEI'S DEATH  
SPURRED.

SUCH RESOLUTION  
IS BRACING, AND, I  
MIGHT ADD, IT RESTORES  
OUR FACE FOR HAVING  
MOUNTED HUNDEI IN  
THE FIRST PLACE.

SUO'S  
COMMENTS WERE  
APPROPRIATE...

...BUT  
PERHAPS  
A LITTLE  
HAPPY.

....  
....





YET... I  
HAVE ONE MORE  
REQUEST OF  
THE GO-SCOTU-SAMA

NOT ONLY THE POST  
OF *ACHU KASHIMAKININ*,  
BUT ALSO THE REPUTATIONS  
OF *SHUO-KYO* AND THE *MAJESTY*  
*SHANAN-RYO HUNG* ON THIS RECENT  
DUEL. *SHUNDO*'S RESPONSIBILITY  
FORCED *CHAM-DOGO* TO STOP  
THE FIGHT BEFORE THAT  
COULD BE DECIDED.



IT SEEMS THE  
*GO-SCOTU-SAMA*  
THEMSELVES DISAGREE,  
SOME SUGGESTING  
PERHAPS *SHUNDO*  
WOLF...

AND THIS, I  
REQUEST ANYTHING  
MORE, I HUMBLY ASK THAT  
YOU INFORM OUR LORD  
THE *SHOGUN* OF THIS  
AS WELL.



I WILL  
TELL OUR  
LORD, AND  
YET...

...THE  
APPOINTMENT  
IS FINAL.



IMPENDING THE  
YASHU REQUEST  
A DUEL WITH *CHAM-DOGO*  
AS THE  
HONORABLE *ACHU KASHIMAKININ*.

BY DEFEATING  
US, *CHAM-DOGO*  
BECOMES *GO-SCOTU-SAMA*  
IN DEED AS  
WELL AS  
NAME!







AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE BOTH *ANAKI-KEBY* AND *SHOYO-KEBY*.

SURELY'S SHOULD HAVE BEEN A *ANAKI-KEBY*, RADIATING FRUSTRATION AT HIS FAILURE.



BUT THAT *KEBY* WAS A *SHOYO-KEBY*, OBEDIENT IN DEATH!



....  
....



BLAME HAS IT THAT THE *YAWI* FAMILY ALL HAVE *KARAKASSEN*, SURELY THAT WASN'T *KUNSEL*, AND SURELY YOU SAW THAT AS WELL. WHY DID YOU REMAIN SILENT?



IF *YAWI*-*DOMO* SAYS IT WAS *KUNSEL*, THEN SO IT MUST BE.



IN ANY CASE, A LOYAL *SAMURAI* DIED FOR HIS CLAN. THAT DOESN'T CHANGE.





AS ALWAYS,  
YOU ARE TRUE  
TO THE SOUL  
OF SWORD.

THE  
TOKIMAWA  
NEED MORE  
LIKE YOU.



INSTEAD, THEY WERE  
FIGHTING RETSUDO, SCREAMING  
FOR POWER. ALREADY HE HAS  
THE AGITO AND THE SHOGUN  
HIMSELF IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.  
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT  
HE COULD TURN  
THIS HUMILIATING  
DISASTER TO HIS  
ADVANTAGE...?



SO, THERE  
IS NO DOUBT  
RETSUDO WILL  
LET YOU WIN  
TOMORROW'S  
DUEL.

TY  
HAY, MY  
LORD!!



THEY'LL  
SACRIFICE ANYTHING  
TO FURTHER THE CLAN—  
EVEN THEIR REPUTATION!  
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE  
SO DANGEROUS!



RETSUDO LOSES,  
YOUR CLAIM TO  
THE POST IS FIRMLY  
ESTABLISHED. RETSUDO  
SHOWS HE MEANS  
YOU NO IL.

THROW  
IT BEHIND!



WHAT RULE  
WILL THEY USE  
TO BRING YOU  
DOWN? WHO  
CAN KNOW?

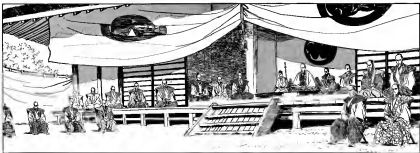
BUT NEVER  
UNDERESTIMATE  
THEIR ABILITY  
RELAX YOUR  
GUARD!

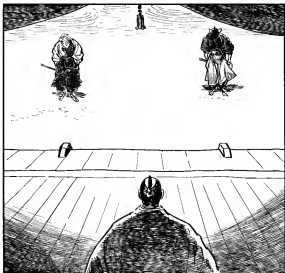
BUT WHY  
IS YASU-  
DOMO SO—







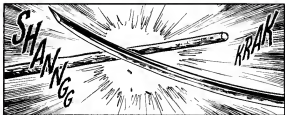


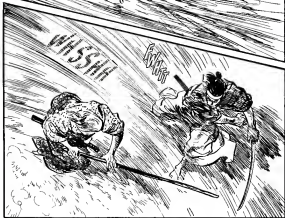






















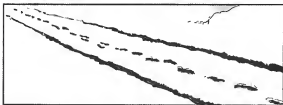




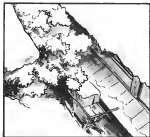
*the forty-third*

# Thread of Tears



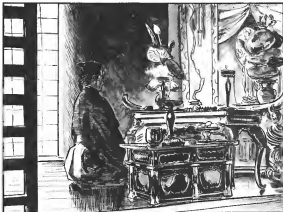


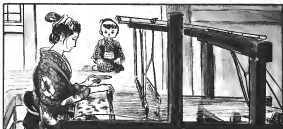




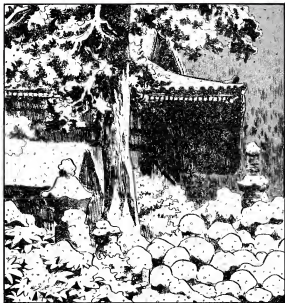








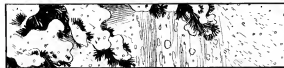


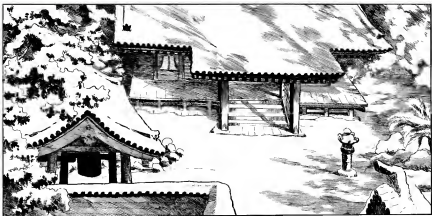














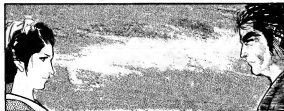


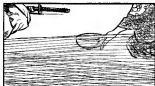






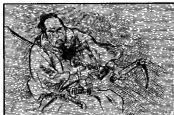
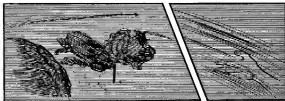
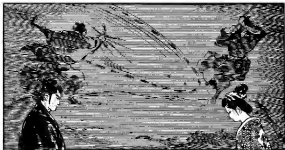






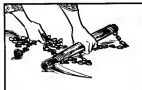
















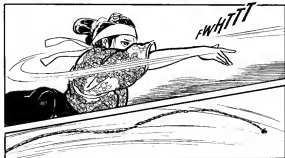
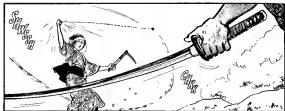


















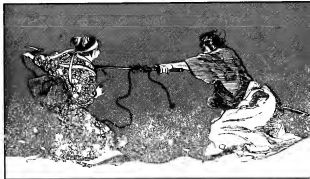
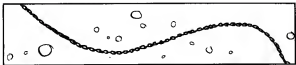
















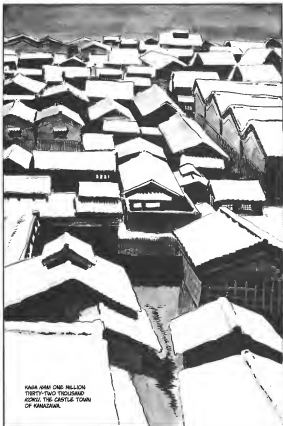




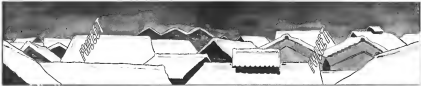
*the forty-fourth*

# Beku- no-fi





KAMAKURA ONE MILLION  
THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND  
ACROSS THE CASTLE TOWN  
OF KAMAKURA.





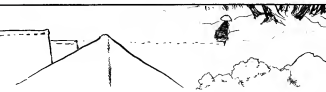








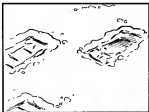


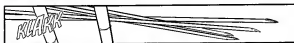






























BEHIDES  
WHICH...I'VE  
GOT A SCHEME  
TO SETTLE  
IN KAGA.

I GROW  
UP NEAR THE  
KURIMADA PASS,  
BETWEEN KAGA  
AND ETOBU.

I'LL NEVER  
FORGET THAT  
DAY. IT WAS  
SUMMER. I WAS  
SEVENTEEN.

KASHI-KI'S  
WAS HEADED  
FROM KAGA TO  
EDO ON SHANOW  
KOFUKI THROUGH  
THE PASS ..













"MY FAMILY  
AND I SAW  
IT ALL FROM  
THIS CLIFF  
ABOVE."



"AND NO,  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE THOSE DREAM  
CAME FROM—THEY  
CARRIED OUT OF  
NOWHERE."

"IT WAS  
ALL OVER IN  
MINUTES."



"HEATH"

"THREE!!"

























MY CHILDREN  
WERE TO KILL  
YOU WHEN YOU  
ENTERED  
HAGG!



OF COURSE I  
KNEW I COULDN'T  
BEAT YOU! SO I  
PLOTED TO PUT  
YOU AGAINST THE  
RED AND BLUE  
DEVILS!

I FIGURED  
NOT EVEN A  
FORMER *KIDOU*  
KNIGHTSHAMAN  
COULD STOP  
THEM ALL!

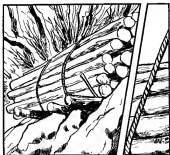
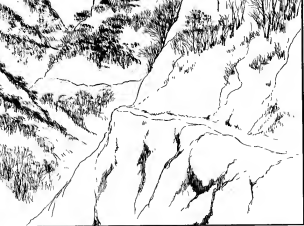
IT'D  
BE HARD  
ENOUGH  
ONE-ON-  
ONE!



BUT  
YOU'LL STILL  
DO IT! KNOWING  
EVERYTHING  
...?!

WE LIVE IN  
AN UNFORGIVING  
WE ACCEPT THE  
TRIALS OF THE  
SIX PATHS,  
THE FOUR  
LIVES!















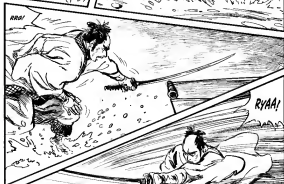




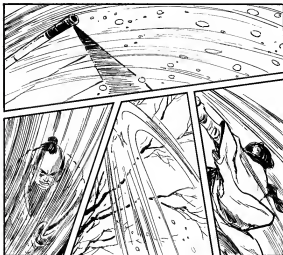


























LOANE WOLF AND CUB BOOK EIGHT: THE BAD  
TO BE CONTINUED

# GLOSSARY

**adauchi shamenjō**

A pardon. *Adauchi* (revenge killings) were permitted by the government for family members. When a petition of *adauchi* was approved, the supplicants received an official pardon to prove they acted legally.

**bakikaku**

The government. The shōgun, his councilors, and his senior officials.

**bōzu**

A Buddhist monk.

**daiikan**

The primary local representative of the shōgunate in territories outside of the capital of Edo. The *daiikan* and his staff collected taxes owed to Edo and oversaw public works, agriculture, and other projects administered by the central government.

**dōtanuki**

A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

**Edo**

The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

**fudai**

The inner circle of clans pledging allegiance to the Tokugawa. The *fudai* clans were Tokugawa allies even before the decisive battle of Sekigahara that assured Tokugawa dominance for the next two hundred years.

**haiku**

Traditional short verse, with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern.

**han**

A feudal domain.

**hannyatō**

"Wisdom's water." A euphemism among Buddhist monks for *aski*.

**hansatsu**

Paper currency, issued by individual *han* and used only within their borders.

**hanshi**

Samurai in the service of a *han*.

**hikyaku**

Runners. An Edo version of the Pony Express, delivery of mail and money by horse and by foot.

**Hokurikaro**

The main route into northern Japan.

**honjin**

The lodgings for *daimyō* and senior *shōgunate* officials.

**honorifics**

Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Low Wolf and Cub*:

*chaw* – for children, young women, and close friends

*awase* – *scholar*; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures

*nana* – used for superiors

*san* – the most common, used among equals or near-equals

*awase* – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

**kansho**

A petition admonishing a superior, always fraught with personal risk in feudal Japan. The *kansho* in Chapter 19 is a *jūji-kansho*, addressed directly to the *shōgun* himself.

**kenkyaku**

Swordman, *kenin*.

**kō**

A *daimyō* (feudal lord).

**kōgi kaishakumin**

The *shōgun*'s own second, who performed executions ordered by the *shōgun*.

**koku**

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*'s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

**kubi**

A severed head. The *kubi* had great significance, be it the head of a wanted criminal presented to claim a bounty, or the head of a samurai, proof in death of his resolute will.

**meifumadō**

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

**nagamaki**

A two-handed weapon taller than a man, with a long, curved blade.

**namu**

From the Sanskrit *namah*: “take refuge in the Buddha.” A common prayer for the dead.

**o-niwaban**

A *ninja*. Literally “one in the garden.” (See *shinobi*.)

**rōjū**

Senior councillors. The inner circle of councillors directly advising the *shōgun*. The *rōjū* were the ultimate advisory body to the Tokugawa *shōgunate*'s national government.

**ryō**

A gold piece, worth 60 *monme* or 4 *tan*.



### **sankin kōtai**

The Tokugawa required that all *daimyō* spend every other year in Edo, with family members remaining behind when they returned to their *han*. This practice increased Edo's control over the *daimyō*, both political and fiscal, since the cost of maintaining two separate households and traveling to and from the capital placed a huge strain on *han* finances.

### **sato-iri shinobi**

*Shinobi* (*ninja*) based in *sato* (homelands) around Japan.

### **seppuku**

The right to kill oneself with honor to atone for failure, or to follow one's master into death. Only the samurai class was allowed this glorious but excruciating death. The abdomen was cut horizontally, followed by an upward cut to spill out the intestines. When possible, a *kashikurae* performed a beheading after the cut was made to shorten the agony.

### **shidō**

Bushidō. The way of the warrior.

### **shinobi**

A generic term for *ninja*, meaning "one who moves in secrecy." *Ninja* had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries serving different warlords, by the Edo

period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous *shinobi* were the *sajo* of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto. The Karokawa that appear in *Low Wolf and Cat* were officially the laborers and manual workers in Edo Castle. Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history.

### **tenryō**

Government land, administered directly by the shōgunate. Law was enforced by the *daikaz* magistrate assigned from Edo. In *han* territory, the *han* authorities enforced the law.

### **toshiyori**

Literally, elders. The top officials of the shōgunate and the *han*, encompassing the *shō* senior and *wakadoshiyori* junior councillors and *kaō* elders.

### **wakadoshiyori**

Junior councillors. The Tokugawa shōgunate was a hybrid government, both a national government empowered by the emperor to govern the nation as a whole, and a *daimyō* government like that of any *han*, concerned with protecting the interests of the Tokugawa clan itself. The council of *wakadoshiyori* junior councillors was the highest advisory body to the shōgun on matters affecting the clan, rather than the nation as a whole.



Under the omnipresent thumb of the conniving warlord Yagyu Betsudo, the Shogun's secret Kurokuwa ninja warriors attempt to ensnare the embattled samurai Ogami Itto and his infant son, Daigoro. If the Lone Wolf can break these chains of death, there are many more waiting to challenge the masterful swordsman, including a vengeful widow, numerous police, and the freezing cold of winter itself. Read the story of Ogami's rise to the position of the Shogun's Officer of Death, and witness the seething root of Yagyu Betsudo's bitterness against Ogami...

*"Koike and Kojima have become leading cultural figures in Japan because of [Lone Wolf and Cub]: their work has influenced entire generations of creators."*

— Shawn Machula  
ennui magazine.com

■ EISNER AWARD WINNER  
■ HARVEY AWARD WINNER

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA



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